

Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4584

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS/ ETRD,EEWT,BEXP,UR

SUBJECT: POSSIBILITY OF U.S. PAVILION AT NEW MOSCOW EXHIBITION

AREA REVIVED

USDOC FOR BEWT/TDAD

REF: MOSCOW 7686

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL BANK OF AMERICAN REP, PROPOSAL THAT BOFA, PORTER INTERNATIONAL, AND PANAM BUILD PAVILION AT NEW MOSCOW EXHIBITION CENTER, WHICH HAD SEEMED DEAD AS OF MAY (REFTEL), HAS BEEN REVIVED. BOFA REP AND VISITING PORTER INTERNATIONAL OFFICIALS MET WITH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/INDUSTRY NOVEMBER 13 AND FOUND THAT CHAMBER HAD GONE BACK ON ITS DECISION TERMINATE DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S. GROUP. BOFA REP ALSO ADVISED THAT, ACCORDING TO CHAMBER OFFICIALS, AGREEMENT WITH GLAHE INTERNATIONAL ON CONSTRUCTION OF FIRST PAVILION ON NEW SITE IS NOT RPT NOT YET FIRM. SOVIETS HAVE PROPOSED THAT GLAHE PROJECT BE EXPANDED FROM PAVILION ALONE TO COMPLEX WHICH WOULD INCLUDE, INTER ALIA, ICE STADIUM AND SPORTS ARENA WHICH COULD BE USED FOR PARTS OF 1980 OLYMPIC

GAMES. AS CONSEQUENCE OF THESE CHANGES, COST OF GLAHE PROJECT HAS GONE FROM DM 20 MILLION TO DM 60 MILLION. GLAHE IS NOW REPORTEDLY DEMANDING A USSR BANK OF FOREIGN TRADE GUARANTEE.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH POSSIBILITY OF A BOFA/PORTER/PANAM PAVILION REMAINS A LONG SHOT, FACT THAT SOVIETS HAVE GONE BACK

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ON PREVIOUS DECISION TO REJECT THIS POSSIBILITY IS INTERESTING.

COUPLED WITH REPORT THAT CONSTRUCTION OF GLAHE PAVILION IS NOT
YET NAILED DOWN, THIS INDICATES THAT CURRENT PLANS TO INAUGURATE
NEW EXHIBITION CENTER IN SEPTEMBER 1976 ARE NONE TOO SOLID.
STOESSEL

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